

in the news

INSIDE

A new column devoted to the arts, *ramblin'*, reviews three concerts of mixed quality which took place over IAP.

p6

The MIT men's fencing squad edged an aggressive West Point team, 14-13, keeping its hopes alive for an Eastern foil championship.

p8

EXCERPTS

After much debate in Washington among House and Senate conferees, Congress is putting the finishing touches on the new energy bill. The compromise legislation will have far-reaching effects on the American way of life, according to reliable Congressional sources who are visiting here during the holiday recess.

The bill would do the following:

Liberalize conservation laws

The present Law of Conservation — the First Law of Thermodynamics — places strict requirements on energy accounting procedures. The new bill relaxes these requirements so that energy systems may be operated on a deficit basis. Power plants will be able to operate at 1000 percent efficiency, and there will be free lunches for everyone.

Amend the law of gravity

It is proposed that beginning Oct. 1, 1980, falling bodies will no longer accelerate at 32 feet per second per second. The legal rate will be lowered by increments until a new rate of 22 feet per second per second is established in 1984. This means that matter will be attracted to Earth with about two-thirds the present pull of gravity, thus requiring less energy for us to climb hills, pitch hay, pump water, etc. New sports records are being counted upon to distract the population during the period of adjustment.

Abolish entropy

This measure repealing the Second Law of Thermodynamics — the Law that requires the entropy, or unavailable energy of the universe, to always increase — will make available vast amounts of energy tied up in heretofore irreversible thermodynamical systems. A non-technical spinoff of this action will be a reversal of society's decline.

The New York Times

Sound in 10-250 a problem for LSC

By Gordon Haff

Nearly six months after 10-250's scheduled opening, problems with the sound system are still preventing its use for movie projection.

When asked about these problems, Harry Portnoy, Campus Architect and the person responsible for the construction of 10-250, replied that there was no real problem with the sound system but rather "we haven't completed all the work on it yet." He added that "we're having less [problems with 10-250] than anticipated."

Michael Dornbrook '75 of the Lecture Series Committee (LSC), the major users of the 10-250 projection equipment, disagreed with Portnoy and cited a list of items which he and other members of LSC considered wrong with the room.

Dornbrook's major complaint was with the JBL sound system



The new movie screen in Room 10-250 is only 20 feet wide and is 3 feet too short to match the current projector lenses. LSC has been unable to use the screen for the past two weeks due to an inoperable screen motor control. The speakers to the left and right of the screen were built in oak cabinets to match the oak trim around the blackboard. The cabinets and border have been painted white. (Photo by Chuck Irwin)

which was installed. Currently, the sound system is "distorting horribly," according to Dornbrook.

In November 1976, LSC received a proposal from the Bose Corporation to set up a sound

system in 10-250 at a substantial discount. On January 4, 1977, LSC members had a meeting with people from planning and with Frank Cook from Audio-Visual. At this meeting, LSC laid out some of the things which they

were interested in: a Bose sound system which could be used for movie four track sound, a dimmable lighting system, a large movie screen and a number of other important items, such as independent booth ventilation, convenient location of switches, wiring of different signal levels through separate conduits, adequate soundproofing so the audience cannot hear noise generated by projectors, projectionists and the toilet, quality audio monitors so that projectionists can hear sound problems over the noise of the projectors and making sure this booth, unlike any existing booth at MIT, met state building codes.

At the end of this meeting, Portnoy told LSC that if any of these requests were to be fulfilled, a complete proposal would have to be in in two days time. LSC did this, including Bose's proposal and a complete diagram of the wiring raceways and projector set-up. In order to overcome any budgetary objections, LSC offered to pay for the additional cost of the sound system, booth monitors, light dimmers and lenses — or the total cost if necessary.

Bolt, Beranek & Newman, Inc. (BBN), specifically Robert Newman, was the contractor responsible for the acoustic and sound system design of 10-250. Their original plan was to use the

(Please turn to page 2)

IAP's most popular activity

Berke again offers disco class

By Steve Kirsch

Disco dancing, IAP's most popular activity for the last two years with a typical attendance of 300, will be offered for the last time today and Friday by Undergraduate Association President Peter Berke '78.

The activity, which in the past two years has never attracted less than 250 people at any session, was not advertised this IAP. Berke was not sure when he would return to the Institute and did not want to commit himself to a fixed date. A last minute poster advertising campaign did, however, attract about 80 students.

Berke, who prefers teaching a small group, was surprised by the high turnout for the event. "I expected about five people to show up," he said.

In a letter to undergraduates, Berke described the class:

"We'll start with the basics and in 15 minutes you'll be able to hold your own on any dance floor

and love it, really! We'll go on to some popular current steps, movements or chants, or whatever else you'd like to learn.

"This is a class especially for individuals who haven't danced before (and even people who thought they never could). Don't come expecting me to teach fancy cha-cha steps for couples, and I won't come expecting you to run for school president, okay? Though maybe we could work something out....

"If you miss Monday or Wednesday's class, come at 11:30 on Wednesday or Friday and we'll get you caught up. Participants will be encouraged (perhaps by price reductions) to frequent local nightclubs and party palaces. If you'd like to help with the class or anything that you think would make this a better place for you, please come a little early. After each class, we'll have some time to cool out, talk, dance and get to know each other....

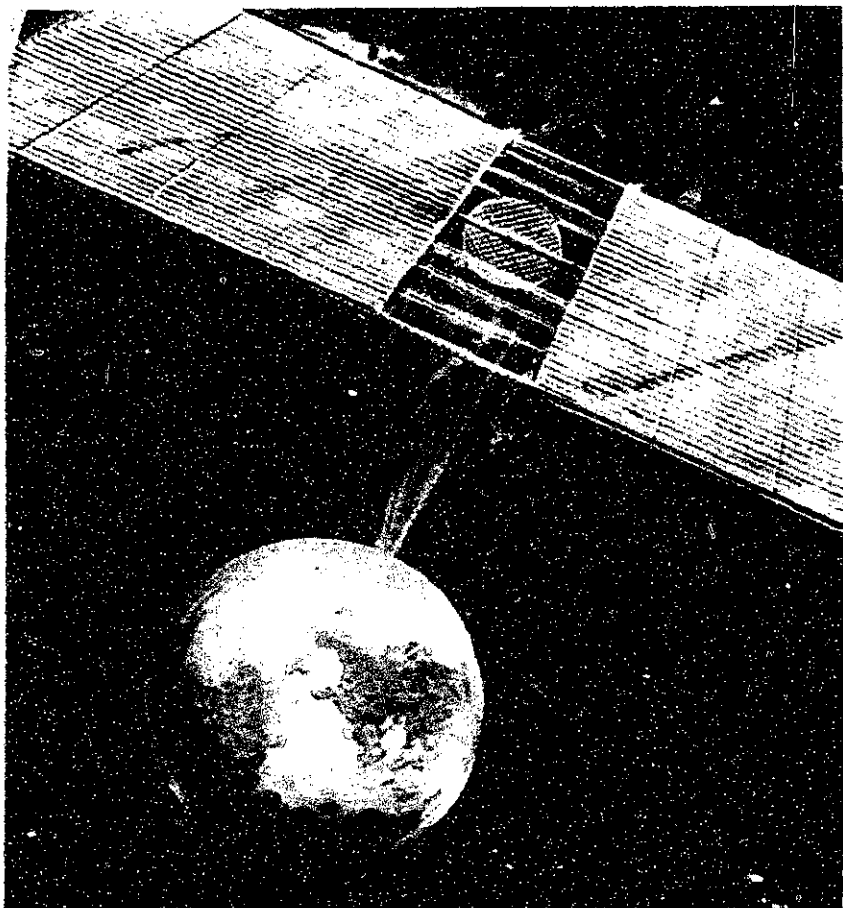
"The dancing class is open to

anybody... with a special invitation to reactionary, self-aggrandizing, irresponsible and ego-blinded members of the campus press."

The goal of the class, according to Berke, is to have fun and to "attract undergraduate men and women to learn something in an analytical way rather than by picking it up." He noted that his class is "one of the few things at MIT attended equally by men and women."

In the past two years, Berke has always received applause after each of his classes. He said that many people stay after class to thank him personally. "They don't do that in physics," Berke said, "but they should."

Berke's class is in the spirit of how he sees his role as UAP: "to get people to do what they're good at." He added, "That's how I got elected — because I taught a couple of hundred undergraduates how to dance."



Artist's conception of proposed solar power satellite system to be placed in geosynchronous Earth orbit. (Photo courtesy Professor Rene Miller)

NASA cuts protested

By Steven Solnick

Proposals for large scale space ventures and the need to avert planned NASA budget cuts were the topics addressed at a meeting organized by the MIT Space Habitat Study Group last Wednesday night.

Dr. Arthur Kantrowitz, Visiting Institute Professor, suggested to an audience of seventy-five that "naive pessimism" about our abilities to survive in space, rather than technological problems, was keeping the human race from tapping the virtually limitless energy and resources available in space. Endorsing "an open future for the human race," Kantrowitz said that space offered the same possibilities for "new starts" as the New World did centuries ago.

Professor René Miller, chairman of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, proposed a plan which he called "the answer to all of America's long term energy problems." The plan calls for solar power satel-

lites to be placed in a geosynchronous earth orbit. These generating stations, which would transmit energy to earth via microwave, could be as large as 40 square kilometers and could have power outputs in the 5-20 gigawatt range. The components would be launched by future derivatives of NASA's Space Shuttle system and assembled in orbit.

An even larger scale space utilization project was presented by Mark Hopkins of the Harvard Economics Department. Hopkins described a possible space habitat to be constructed out of lunar materials at one of a number of gravitational equilibrium points in the earth-moon system. This habitat, first proposed by Professor Gerard O'Neill of Princeton, would produce the solar power satellites described by Miller. The construction of such satellites in space would allow them to be more easily transportable because of the absence of gravity. This factor, along with the abundance

(Please turn to page 7)

LSC cites 10-250 problems

(Continued from page 1)

old 10-250 sound system and rely on the excellent acoustics for speech.

According to Dornbrook, "Newman would have nothing to do with Bose." In March, when it appeared that BBN was definitely not going to install a Bose system, Bose offered to do an audio test matching their system against any system which BBN cared to use, no matter what the price. However, Bose wanted MIT to agree to purchase their system if the test proved it to be superior. Dornbrook said that "even though there was never a written agreement, there was a basic understanding that if the Bose system was better it would be used."

However, when the test was performed, Harry Portnoy sent his assistant, Doris Cole, instead of coming himself, and Robert Newman was in Australia. Joseph K. Hichar III '78, former LSC chairman, stated that "everyone there agreed the Bose system was superior," including Newman's assistant, Frank Cook (A-V) and the sales representatives from

Lake Systems, an Altec distributor subcontracted to do the sound system installation. The Altec system tested was an enhanced version of the old 10-250 system which was purchased by LSC in 1963.

After LSC turned in its design proposals, the design office refused to discuss their plans or give any information during the seven remaining months of construction, Dornbrook noted.

The present sound system, installed without LSC's knowledge, is a quadrophonic system as opposed to the 4-track system which LSC requested. (While quadrophonic sound has four separate sources which are put in the four corners of the room, movie stereo has front right, front center, front left channels, and one rear surround channel.) The installed quadrophonic system makes normal monophonic sources sound like they come from the side of the room of the nearest speaker, instead of from the screen.

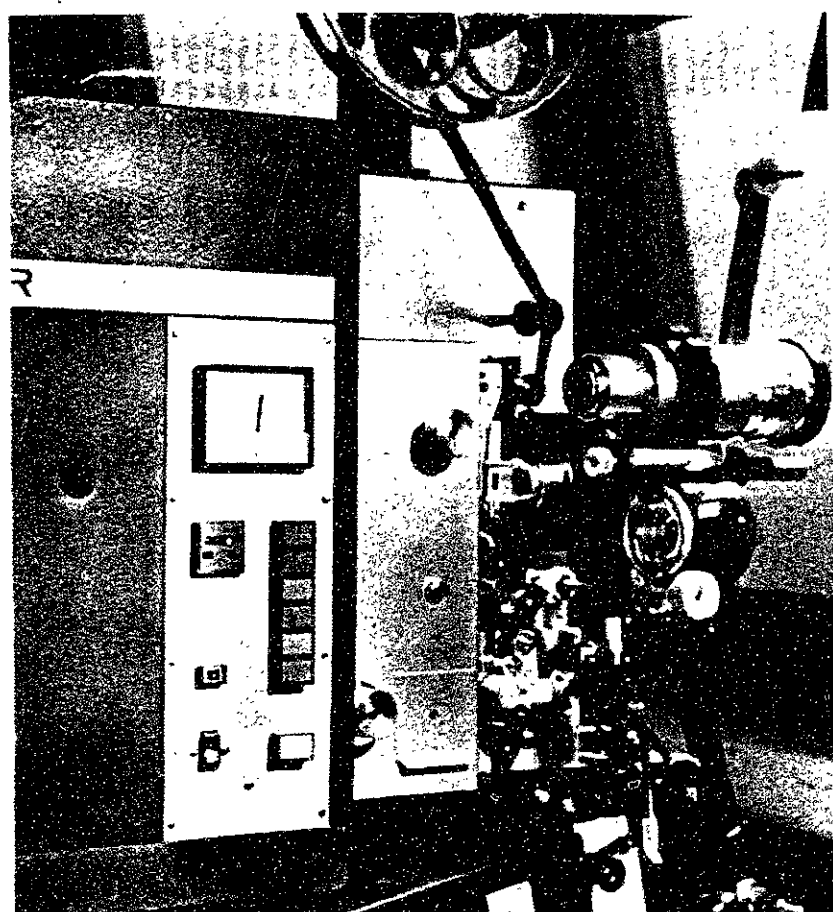
LSC themselves purchased the Bose system which MIT decided they did not want. The system will be set up for 4-track magnetic

sound movies.

Other problems with 10-250 include an inappropriate size screen, wrong lenses and miscut aperture plates, and bad wiring. Dornbrook also mentioned that "when you turn the arcs on or off, you get a gross popping sound through the sound system." LSC experts believe this is due to incorrect wiring.

In addition, the mercury vapor lighting system needs a warmup time of seven minutes. This situation, while presenting problems with showing movies, is even more serious during lectures at which slides are being shown intermittently throughout the lecture.

Another problem with the lighting system is that the dimmer control only works between full brightness and 2 percent of full brightness, a level which due to logarithmic eye response appears to be half of full brightness. Below that point, the lighting has to be turned on or off in one step. This, like the former antiquated 10-250 lighting system, tends to blind people when it is turned on or off.



One of the two combination 16-35mm projectors recently installed as part of the 10-250 renovation. They are the first projectors of this kind Bauer has ever made. Current problems with the projectors include a lens-aperture plate combination that cuts out 30 per cent of the 35mm image and produces a 16mm image too small to be seen clearly from the back of the room. (Photo by Chuck Irwin)

notes

* Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) will discuss opportunities at DEC, specifically in diagnostics engineering, on Thurs. Jan. 19 at 1:30pm in the Marlar Lounge, Room 37-252. Everyone welcome, especially seniors and graduate students in electrical engineering and computer science.

* A commemoration of the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion will be held Sun. Jan. 22 at 1:30pm at the Arlington Street Church (corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets, Boston). Speakers from the religious and political communities will include Representative Sandra Graham of Cambridge. For more information contact Mary at 491-1559 or Mary at 738-1370.

* The Ken Rogoff Chess Simultaneous Exhibition will be held on Fri. Jan. 27, starting at noon in Lobby 7. To reserve a board, send \$1.50 to Brad Schaefer at Burton 141G or call x5-8156.

* The first meeting of the '78 R/O Committee will be on Wed. Jan. 25 at 4:30pm in Room 7-105. If you are interested in helping out or have suggestions but can't come to the meeting, call Barry Newman at x5-7603.

* The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers scholarships to American students for study in Germany during 1978. The programs have an application deadline of Jan. 31. For application forms and further information contact the DAAD at One Fifth Avenue, Apt. 11-D, New York, NY 10003.

* The EECS Student-Faculty Committee is sponsoring two tours which will feature a talk with company engineers and a tour of plant facilities. The first, scheduled for this Friday, is to the Hewlett Packard Medical Instrumentation Facility (a VI-A co-op company) in Waltham. The second tour, on Thurs., Jan. 26, will visit Prime Computer, Inc. in Framingham, an advanced computer equipment manufacturer. Sign-up and tickets are available at the EECS Undergrad Office, Room 38-476. Both tours leave at the lobby of Bldg. 39 at 12:30pm.

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news roundup

World

Italian government dissolved — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti handed in the resignation of his Christian Democratic Party to President Giovanni Leone on Monday. The resignation followed increasing pressure by members of Communist, Socialist, and Republican parties for greater Communist participation in Italian government.

Hotline uses satellites — A new emergency hotline system, involving the use of orbiting satellites, has been set up between the United States and the Soviet Union. Officials said that the use of satellites eliminates the problems caused by cable and high frequency radio transmissions. A terrestrial hotline system has been in service since 1963.

Nation

NASA names Hoffman mission specialist — Dr. Jeffrey A. Hoffman, an MIT astrophysicist, and three MIT alumni were among the 35 persons selected by NASA as space shuttle astronauts. Hoffman is a member of the Center for Space Research's Cosmic Ray Group. NASA also chose six women — the first ever appointed for the US space program.

Supreme Court to question search rules — The Justice Department asked the Supreme Court to give police officers the right to make surprise searches of newspaper offices. The case was brought up after a break-in of the *Stanford Daily*, a student newspaper at Stanford University, by local police. The police had wanted some photographic negatives to identify the participants at a demonstration where a police officer was injured.

Humphrey dies — Senator Hubert Humphrey died Friday of cancer at his Minnesota home. He was a leader in the Senate for forty years, Vice President under Lyndon Johnson, and an unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1968. Nicknamed "The Happy Warrior," Humphrey was widely known for his optimistic personality as well as for his progressive legislation. Humphrey was buried in his hometown Monday.

Sports

Orange Crush goes flat — In the Super Bowl, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Denver Broncos by a score of 27-10 in a game ridden with turnovers. The Dallas defenders intercepted four passes by Bronco quarterback Craig Morton and also recovered four Denver fumbles.



President Jerome B. Wiesner walked alongside Dr. Jerome H. Holland, keynote speaker at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observance. Over 200 people attended the event held last Friday in Kresge Auditorium. (Photo by Douglas Birdwell)

TCA blood drive gets the red out

By Jordana Hollander

The Technology Community Association's (TCA) annual IAP Red Cross Blood Drive was called successful, if "a little slow," by the co-chairmen Paul Stipe '79 and Jim McCormack '79.

The third IAP Blood Drive, held January 11 and 12, netted 254 pints of blood for area hospitals. Stipe said he was pleased with the result, especially since, as is usual after the holidays, there was a severe shortage of blood in the Boston area.

Stipe attributed the slow response this year to a lack of publicity. The Blood Drive began only a few days after most people returned for IAP. Thus the main problem the TCA staff faced was advertising the blood drive. There is generally less work involved during the IAP blood drive than during other blood drives in the year, because TCA does not try to reach as many people, according to Stipe.

The TCA's next Blood Drive will be held in mid-March and will be the major effort to collect blood during spring term.

Looking Back:

Busch sold ale during Dry Era

Editor's note: The advertising within a newspaper's pages often reflects the social struggles of the times. Two years ago, Anheuser-Busch was involved in a small campus scandal over a promotion for the company's beer. However, Anheuser-Busch was not always able to promote its alcoholic beverages on campus — or anywhere, for that matter. Fortunately for The Tech, there were other products to be advertised during the days of Prohibition.



Student contributes to the 245 pints of blood collected by the TCA during its IAP blood drive. Blood was needed by Boston area hospitals, whose blood supply dwindled after the holidays. (Photo by Steven Solnick)



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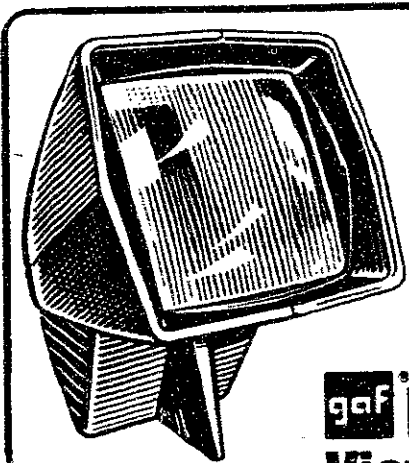
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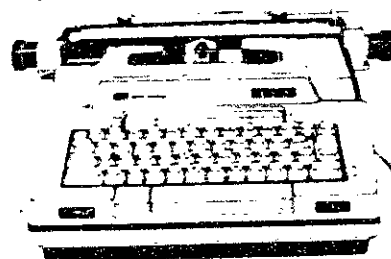
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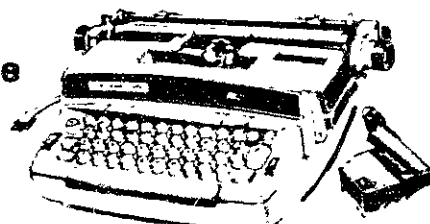


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opinion

A tribute to HHH: the steady warrior

By William Lasser

When those of us in our early twenties and late teens became politically aware, American politics was dominated by Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, and America itself was torn by racial conflict and by a growing opposition to the Viet Nam War. A few men in leadership positions, however, were able to retain a sense of justice and compassion throughout the difficult period of the late 1960s. One of them was Hubert Humphrey.

In an era of riots, demonstrations and social unrest, Humphrey was the countervailing force in American politics, a man who gave us some indication as we began to understand what was going on around us that politics could be used to help people rather than to kill them, or draft them, or arrest them. Along with George McGovern, Eugene McCarthy, Robert Kennedy and others, Humphrey gave us hope, a pervading sense of optimism which could scarcely be found elsewhere.

There is a temptation to glorify those who have passed away; the Romans had a saying that "nothing but good shall be said about the dead," and by and large we stick by that maxim.

Rarely, however, are eulogies as sincere and as applicable as were the speeches given Sunday and Monday by Humphrey's personal friends and political compatriots. For, despite his faults, it could be said with complete honesty that Humphrey always cared about the "little man," that he was at the forefront of the civil and human rights movements long before such a political position was particularly fashionable, and that throughout his career he attempted, both with success and with failure, to unite rather than to divide.

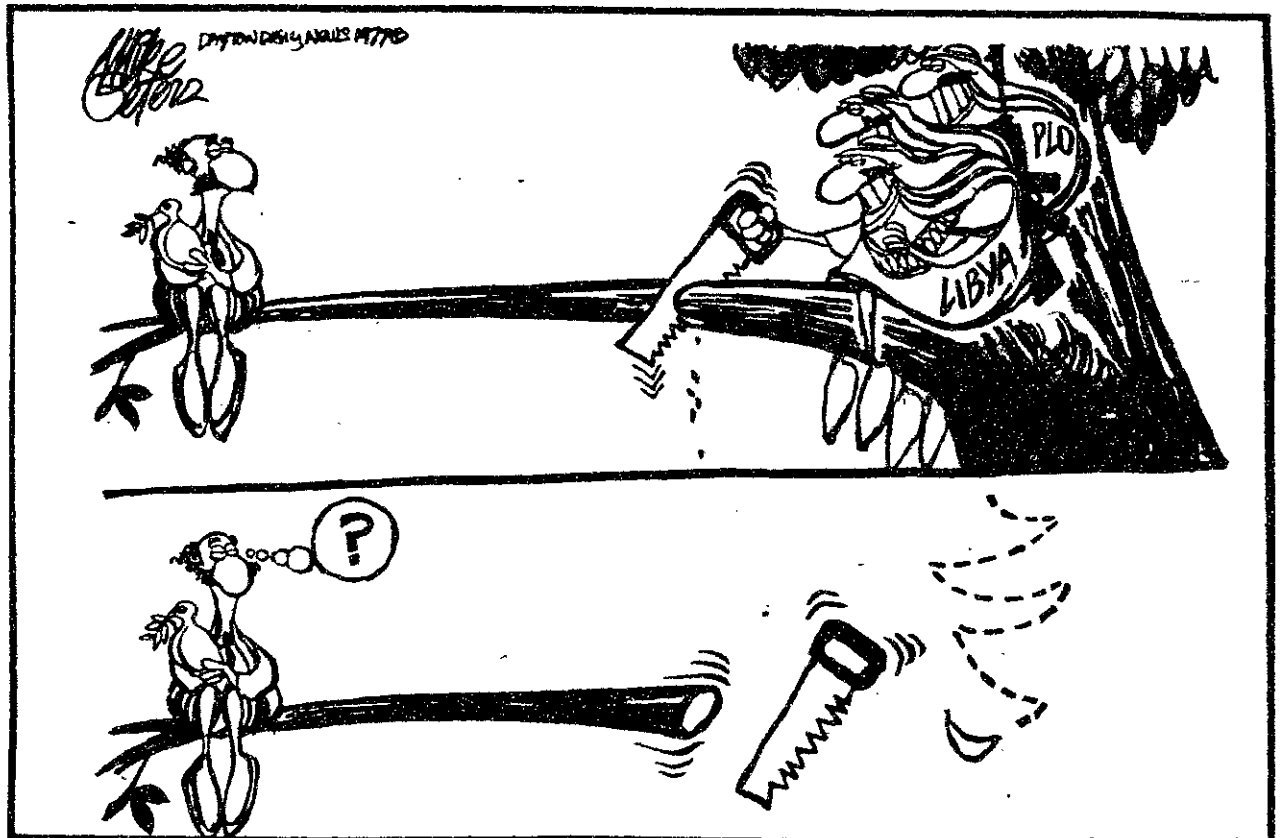
The late 1960s were difficult times for Humphrey also, of course. Though strongly opposed to the Viet Nam War, he felt bound as vice president by a sense of loyalty to Lyndon Johnson to remain silent rather than oppose his President's course of action. Only after it was too late, during the 1968 election campaign against Richard Nixon, did Humphrey again regain his accustomed outspoken role.

But the great outpouring of emotion expressed by the American people at Humphrey's death is an indication of his position as a national leader in difficult times. In a symbolic sense, he represented the quintessential New Deal Democrat — a man concerned about the poor, the unfortunate, the politically weak. And he represented the mythological American politician with his strong commitment and enthusiasm for causes he believed in, and with his sense of fairness and humility which made him graceful and dignified both in victory and defeat.

Americans will remember Humphrey for many things. Some will remember his famous speech at the 1948 Democratic National Convention, when, as the unknown mayor of Minneapolis, he brought the civil rights issue out into the open. Others will recall him as a man who spent what seemed like his whole life running for the Presidency, but who never attained that office. The clearest picture in my mind of Humphrey is of what might be called his last appearance as a presidential candidate — the day he bowed out of the 1976 race for the Democratic nomination. It was typical of his style, for in deciding not to run he left those watching him not with a sense of defeat or despair, but with a feeling of accomplishment and anticipation.

It is unfortunate that in this country we tend not to recognize and honor great men until they die or are dying. Humphrey wanted the ceremonies surrounding his death to be a celebration of life, to be full of music and song. He did not want anyone — neither his personal friends nor his countrymen — to be sad. I, along, I suspect, with most Americans, found it impossible not to mourn our nation's loss.

here
and
now



We've got your number

By Bob Wasserman

Last year a man in Minneapolis, Minnesota attempted to have his name changed legally to 1069. "My close friends just call me one-zero," he commented.

structure addressed 77 Massachusetts Avenue might even be incorporated into one or two larger buildings with room numbers assigned logically.

It's not that all the buildings on the MIT campus are nameless, for many are christened after famous scientists

Humanities Department.

The complete change-over from building numbers to names might cause some inconvenience, in course schedules, for example. Nevertheless, short abbreviations such as "GRN" or "MACL" would be just as simple to write as numbers and would prevent registration guides from looking like secret code.

Although the circumstances surrounding the naming of MIT buildings by numbers can easily be joked about, this situation is a very serious one. The use of numbers instead of names for buildings is a dehumanization of the Institute, and the MIT administration and students should use these names in all instances. Until the turnaround is effected, however, everyone should find a complete list of MIT buildings and their names (look in *HoToGaMIT*), and use these whenever possible.

perspectives

Whether or not this man's plea for a new name will be accepted by a local court, this could be the start of a new national movement of shunning Christian names altogether. And why not? Today we have social security numbers, bank account numbers, telephone numbers, etc., which are beginning to be accepted as substitutes for real identities.

I wouldn't be surprised to see future ID cards which, instead of pictures, have striped black lines similar to those found on supermarket goods, as well as social security numbers, of course.

Now suppose Mr. 1069 becomes a rich and famous industrialist, say Vice-President of General Motors. Well, maybe 1069 decides to send little 1069-2 to MIT, or perhaps he had received a degree from the Institute and is grateful to his old alma mater. In any case, 1069 decides to donate quite a large sum to MIT for the completion of a new Center for Numerical Engineering.

The members of the MIT Corporation are delighted by the news of the gift. Not only are they pleased with Mr. 1069's generosity, but he has solved one of their toughest problems for them, that of naming the new building. The Building Committee names a new structure after its chief benefactor, and also assigns a number to it, which everyone ends up calling the building. This time, however, the authorities can kill two birds with one stone, and simply name the new Center "The 1069 Building."

The previous example just shows one of the more irritating characteristics of MIT: all the buildings are referred to by numbers instead of names. The Admissions Office could seriously wonder how many prospective freshmen have been turned off by just walking around the Institute as the tour guide explained, "... now on your right is Building 33."

One could even argue that this maze of buildings and their numbers are not in a logical sequence, and both newcomers and old-timers might be better off if all the buildings were called by their English names. The large

and educators. Perhaps the Institute, which is so eager to improve its "humanist" image, might change the usage of "Lobby 7" to "the William Barton Rogers Lobby" and "Lobby 10" to "the Richard Cockburn MacLaurin Lobby."

At least the Administration could make sure nobody called the Charles Hayden Memorial Library "14N" or "14E," which sounds like you need a compass just to get around. This designation must totally intimidate young faculty members in the

IM managers defended

To the Editor:

As an IM Manager, I feel compelled to reply to Gordon Haff's article in your issue of January 11, *IM's Managed Poorly*. Mr. Haff donates a large portion of his article to what he sees as the poor management of IM hockey, listing several grievances.

Mr. Haff's biggest gripe appears to concern hockey's A-league. His complaint is that every team is "an all star team" and that "no living group could compete in it." In regard to this complaint, I refer Mr. Haff to the 1977-78 *MIT Intramural Sports Handbook* in which A-league is described as a league in which "serious competitors can compete for championship trophies." Nowhere is it stated that these teams must include living groups. Mr. Haff goes on to state that this problem could have been solved by the establishment of living group and independent A-leagues as now exist in soccer. Contrary to Mr. Haff's statements, this situation has been looked into. The first examination of this occurred last year and was performed by then manager Danny Bovarnick. In my own evaluation of this idea, I found it unsuitable for hockey. If Mr. Haff would have examined the league alignments, he would have seen that such a two part A-league would leave 2 teams in an independent league and no more than 4, and more realistically 3 teams in the living group division. I hardly find this arrangement more beneficial to the intramural program.

In regard to Mr. Haff's complaint concerning the lack of an A-league in football, I fail to see his point. I sincerely hope that he does not feel that this situation was handled lightly. I attended many executive committee meetings during the first term. Some of these meetings included the discussions of A-league football. It was plainly shown that there is nothing a manager can do to make an A-league if there is not sufficient interest, despite his great efforts.

Mr. Haff also appears dismayed by the lack of publicizing of standings. Firstly, I hope that Mr. Haff has not forgotten the weather which plagued the opening of the ice rink. This caused a few more important items to be handled. I also did not place standings at the top of my priorities since last year they were compiled approximately every two weeks, and were seldom accepted by *The Tech*, and if accepted, were not printed.

In conclusion, I would like to inquire how Mr. Haff planned to be able to show "the managerial side of the intramural sports program" while never having attended an Intramural Executive Committee meeting where managerial problems and decisions are discussed, nor having been a manager himself. Perhaps if he had held such a position, he would have more respect for those who put the time and effort into making the IM program work.

Philip A. Zylberman '80
IM Hockey Manager

feedback

IAP: too many conflicts

To the Editor:

I wish to express my disappointment and anger at the relatively large number of conflicting activities which are listed for IAP. I realize that every person is not expected to be interested or have time to go to every class, and obviously some conflicts are not avoidable. However, as I look through the IAP Guide, and notice the large number of activities which I would like to attend, but which occur at the same time, I cannot escape the impression that most

of the classes and seminars were scheduled for the convenience of those who are putting them on. There should be a concerted effort, and we certainly deserve such an effort, to coordinate the activities so as to minimize conflicts. I admit I know nothing of the difficulties involved in such an effort, or even whether it has already been attempted, but such an effort to improve the situation will certainly produce better results for us than no effort at all.

Robert Purington '81

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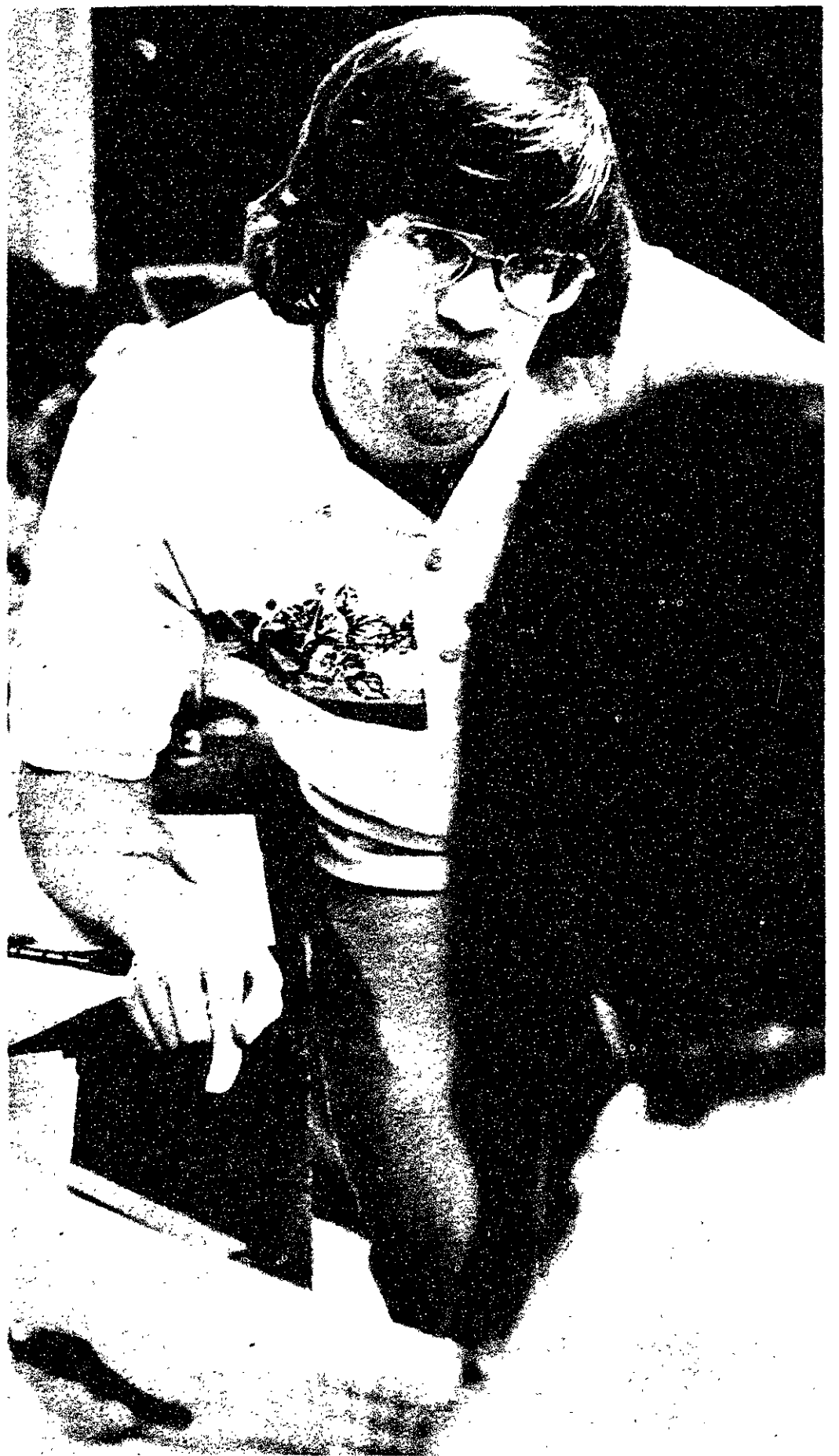
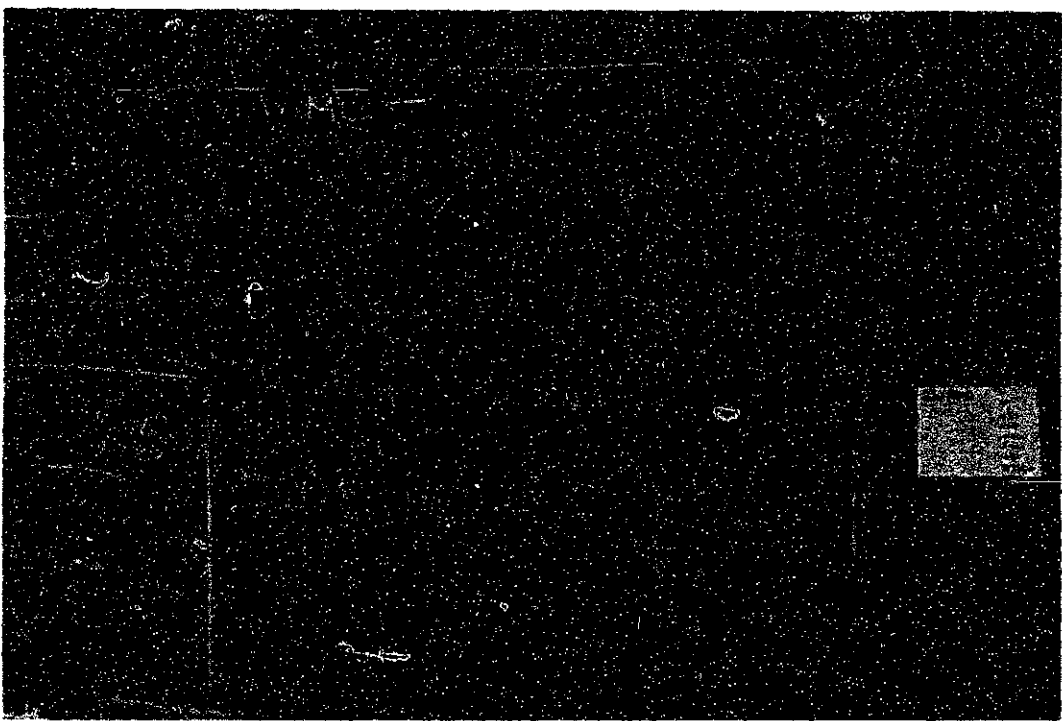
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wanted:

Free Time

(yours)

We're putting together two more issues of *The Tech* during IAP. We'd like you to help.



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Drop by our office, W20-483 on the fourth floor of the Student Center, on Monday night, all day Tuesday, or anytime during IAP. In addition, *The Tech* is sponsoring a special seminar on news writing (IAP #567, second meeting tonight at 7:30).

The Turning Point is pointless ballet



Shirley MacLaine as Deedee and Anne Bancroft as Emma star together in *The Turning Point*.

★★ *The Turning Point*, starring Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine, written by Arthur Laurents, produced by Herbert Ross and Arthur Laurents, directed by Herbert Ross, introducing Mikhail Baryshnikov and Leslie Browne, featuring the American Ballet Theatre. A 20th Century Fox production.

By Kathy Hardis

The Turning Point is a beautiful piece of entertainment if one enjoys watching the ballet. However, dancing is the movie's primary emphasis; the plot, which is not developed to its fullest potential, appears to be only secondary in importance.

The story centers around two old friends, played by Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine. Twenty years earlier they had both been prima ballerinas rehearsing for the same starring role. MacLaine fell in love and left to get married and raise a family, while Bancroft remained in the ballet for "nineteen curtain calls" and a lonely starring career.

After their lives took separate paths they meet again, still haunted by old rivalries and jealousies. This recrimination climaxes in a short fight outside of Lincoln Center, but the scene should have been longer and the build-up bigger. The continuity of this central theme is continuously being broken by stunning, yet irrelevant dance sequences.

The action of the film is also interrupted by a sub-plot concerning MacLaine's teen-aged daughter, played by Leslie Browne. She is a fledgling ballerina with the talent to follow Bancroft's path, yet is tempted into an affair with the company's young Russian dancer (Mikhail Baryshnikov). This echoes the past complexity of her mother's decision to give up her career for

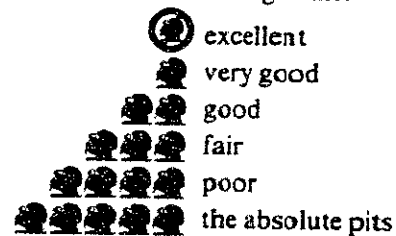
love, but that parallel is also not sufficiently developed.

MacLaine's and Bancroft's performances are both very notable despite the script's occasional weaknesses, and although Baryshnikov's acting is almost non-existent, he makes his amorous intentions towards Browne quite clear, and his dancing is unsurpassed.

The ballet sequences, both on and off stage, are the movie's finest points. They are filmed at angles which would rival those of any Degas ballet painting, and the close-ups of dances, both in rehearsal and in performance, show the highly perfected skills necessary for the ballet not always evident to the ordinary viewer.

If ballet and its technical aspects are your *forte*, this film should not be missed. If you are willing to sacrifice a better-developed complex storyline to see that which most people would pay \$15 a ticket to see at the American Ballet Theatre, *The Turning Point* offers you front row seats. But if you want a more poignant and realistic script for what could have been an excellent story, you should think twice about seeing a movie with unfulfilled plot potential.

The Tech's movie rating scale:



ConcertsduringIAP

By Drew Blakeman

While I was back home over IAP, one of the many interesting and varied things I did was to attend several rock concerts. In this, the inaugural column of *ramblin'* I will review the three concerts I saw, all of them at the Capital Centre in suburban Washington, DC.

My first concert this IAP was Kiss on Dec. 20. Kiss was, well, Kiss. They are the ultimate costume band, and their highly elaborate stage show takes precedence over

best that night, and the concert went downhill from there. Aerosmith is a prime example of a group which builds up a good reputation through a few excellent albums and a well-received national tour, and then rides on its reputation at the expense of further artistic development.

The opening act, Golden Earring, was clearly the superior band. Styx was to have performed, and I was looking forward to seeing them again after having seen them at the Orpheum in November. But their drummer, John Panozzo, developed pneumonia, and Golden Earring was called in as a last-minute replacement. Their per-

formance was much crisper than Aerosmith's, and lead singer Barry Hay was infinitely superior to Tyler. His voice is powerful and penetrating, and is as good as any in rock music today. Golden Earring's music is classic heavy metal with a particularly strong beat, and the group performs it well. Their one legitimate hit, "Radar Love," was the best performed number of the evening by either group.

My third and last IAP concert was Ted Nugent on Jan. 5. More than 22,000 showed up at the Cap Centre that evening, virtually a capacity crowd, so many that people were forced to sit in the obstructed seats behind the stage. This was the best of the three concerts, both in the quality of the performances and the crowd's response to the music. Ted Nugent had the audience on its feet and clapping for most of his act. The instrumentals were superb — there was an electricity present that is rarely found in concert. The audience got caught up in the spirit of the performance, and made the music seem even better than it was.

It was slightly surprising that *Cat Scratch Fever*, Nugent's current hit off the album of the same name, was played as early as it was — the third number in the concert. This song has the potential to become his first hit on the national level, although he has already found some regional success. He also announced that a live album from this tour will be released sometime in February.

The backup groups were Point Blank and Golden Earring (again). Point Blank played first, and started off on a bad foot. Their first two numbers were pretty bad, but they improved considerably after that. Golden Earring was as good as they had been two weeks earlier, possibly a bit better. They performed virtually the same set they had done previously, but it was shortened by slicing out a few of the songs in the middle of their act.

ramblin'

their music in concert. They weren't at all disappointing to someone who knows what they are like — they delivered everything that was expected of them.

The most interesting aspect of this show was the crowd, undoubtedly the youngest audience I have ever seen at a concert. Many parents took their children to see Kiss, probably not knowing exactly what they were letting themselves in for. Some of them left quite disgustedly in the middle of the show, but most managed to stick it out. A few of the "oldsters" seemed to enjoy the concert quite a bit, but most seemed relieved when it was over. All the nine and ten year olds really enjoyed the show, though. Then again, the music is aimed at that age group.

This concert wasn't too high on entertainment value; I had seen the stage show once before, and their music is performed much better on records (after the sound engineers get a crack at it) than it is live. The opening act, Piper, was the pits, although they were not much worse than the average non-talented opening group.

The second concert I saw was Aerosmith, two days later. It was by far the most disappointing of the three. I had expected so much more from Aerosmith, hoping that they had improved considerably from last year's tour, which was a bomb. I was wrong; they were worse.

Lead singer Steve Tyler's voice is absolutely shot. It sounds like he's suffering from a terminal case of laryngitis. Tyler's voice was somehow made to sound normal (at least for him) on Aerosmith's latest album, *Draw the Line*, but those electronic miracles can't be used live.

The sound was exceedingly bad, the worst I can remember at a concert. It was amplified and distorted literally beyond recognition, so much so that several times during the show it was impossible to tell which song the group was playing. It was that bad. Aerosmith's opening number, *Back in the Saddle Again*, was easily their



Kiss gave a predictable performance last December at the Capital Centre in Largo, Md.

weekend

MOVIES

Saturday Night Fever — Good dance sequences, but pretty mediocre other than that. And on top of it all, the music is disco. Cinema 57.

Magic Movies III — Some interesting animation, mostly foreign. Off the Wall. **Close Encounters of the Third Kind** — Cinema 57.

AROUND MIT

Strat's Rat — Cheap beer, and the music has been improving. There was a pretty good crowd last Friday. Probably worth dropping by. Friday, 8:30-2am in the Sala.

LSC

Fantastic Planet — An unusual fantasy film with mediocre though interesting animation. Probably worth seeing, especially if you like fantasy. Wednesday, 7 and 9:30 in 26-100.

What's Up, Doc — A hilarious film set in San Francisco and starring Ryan O'Neal and Barbra Streisand. Some of the chase and slapstick scenes will leave you rolling in the aisles. Friday, 7 and 9:30 in 26-100.

Lawrence of Arabia — A powerful epic film about T. E. Lawrence, the enigmatic British army officer who served under General Allenby against the Turks in World War I. Everything about the movie is spectacular — the acting by Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, Alec Guinness, and others, the cinematography, and the music. Don't miss this one. Saturday, 5:30 and 10 in 26-100.

Buster Keaton Festival — *Sherlock Jr.*, *The Electric House*, *The Blacksmith*, and *The Goat*. Shorts by the funniest, in terms of straight comedy, of the silent movie actors. He was the star of *The General* which LSC showed in Kresge last year with organ music by John Kiley. Sunday, 7 and 9:30 in 26-100.

sports

Freshmen avenged in MIT Field Day

By Gordon Haff

Many years ago, many being arbitrarily defined as more than twenty or so, there was not an IM sports program at MIT as today. What programs existed were both smaller and less organized than their modern counterparts. What those students did have, however, was Field Day.

Field Day was an institution which dated back into the early years of MIT, or Technology as it was then called. It dated back to even before MIT moved across the river from where it was Boston Tech. The "modern" Field Day was a competition between the freshman and sophomore classes which originated in 1901. Earlier, there had been an activity called the Cane Rush. In this activity, the freshman class was given a large cane which the sophomore class tried to get away from them. In 1900, however, "the unconscious body of Hugh Moore '04 was found wrapped around the cane, and although he was removed immediately, all efforts to revive him were unsuccessful."

The following year, the first Field Day to be called by that name was held. Eventually, it encompassed a number of activities, including a glove fight in which each team tried to wrestle gloves from their opponents. These events were taken very seriously until their decline in the late 1950's. Teams had coaches and practiced for weeks before the big day. Field Day predictions and results were banner headline items in *The Tech*. Field Day was a big event in the lives of freshmen especially. Before the day, "kidnapping" of class presidents and an assortment of other hacks designed to embarrass or otherwise inconvenience the other class were committed by both freshmen and sophomores.

Today people complain about how freshman shower night is "demeaning to their character." I can't help but wonder how they would have reacted to the situation presented in the following which was published in a 1956 issue of *The Tech*:

"On Thursday afternoon I was walking across Harvard Bridge when several cars stopped, and over twenty sophomores descended on me. Seeing resistance was hopeless, I signalled the freshman I was with to run, and resisted until he had escaped.

"Once I was in the car, I was held securely, and the car was driven out to Brookline, where I was blindfolded, bound, and transferred to another car. I was then taken to an apartment near Fenway Park. My captors said that as long as I made no attempt to escape they would treat me as well as possible under the circumstances. They also said they desired my presence at the Sophomore muglift.

"For dinner I was taken to a drive-in where I was given a steak dinner. After dinner I was taken to a Harvard dorm. Also present at the dorm were three Harvard students apparently recruited to help hold me by the fearful sophomores. At this point escape seemed impossible. However, I began to complain that I could not study well in the cramped dorm room. Finally, to silence my protestations, my captors took me to a library. There I wrote a note which said: 'Help. I am an MIT Freshman being held prisoner against my will. Can you help me escape?' After I had studied a while, it was decided to return me to the dorm. On the way out, I slipped my note to a man who was either a janitor or a Harvard proctor. He stopped us, asking what the note meant. While the people with me gagged, I turned and ran. I ran out on Memorial Drive, where I jumped in front of a car. When they stopped, I opened the door and leaped inside, crying for them to go, go, go.

At first the three Harvard students in the car thought I was either drunk or insane, but finally I convinced them that I really was the president of the MIT freshman class, newly escaped. After this the guy in the car put me up for the night and offered me full hospitality. In the morning, I called Dwayne Burnson, the Freshman Incomm Representative. After Dwayne had taken his quiz, he picked up Art Shallock, the vice-president, and drove out to pick me up where I was staying. Joe Venderber, the Secretary-Treasurer, had apparently disappeared, as Dwayne could not find him at this time. Then we drove down to New York. Friday night we sent the poor, frustrated sophomores a telegram, which said, 'Sorry we missed your party. Were unavoidably detained. Wish you were here. Signed: Executive Committee, Freshman Class.'



The 'Hydros' of Civil Engineering's Parsons Lab, play football in the snow. (Photo by Douglas Birdwell)

Wrestlers taken down

By Bob Host

Last Saturday MIT hosted a triangular wrestling meet with Coast Guard (ranked fifth in New England) and Harvard (ranked sixth). Coast Guard defeated MIT 37-6 and beat Harvard 29-

16, to finish first in the competition. In the other match, Harvard shut out MIT 50-0 to take second place.

Overall, the Engineers won only two individual matches, both against Coast Guard. Norman

Hairston '79, won his 134-lb. match by a score of 12-5. Hairston admitted that MIT's one-and-a-half month layoff did not help the team. "Nobody was in shape," he stated, noting that the team did not practice over Christmas vacation. Hairston showed some signs of tiring himself in the final period of his bout, but he held on long enough to win handily.

The other MIT win was by Bruce Wrobel '79, who won his bout against Coast Guard 11-5. There were a number of other matches in which the Engineers came close to winning but could not pull off the victory. Coach Wil Chassey said that by next week the team would be in shape, and that Harvard and Coast Guard were two of the best teams in New England.

Harvard coach Johnny Lee admitted that Coast Guard earned their victories, and that Harvard's wrestlers had to concentrate on final exams as well. "Coast Guard won the tight ones," he noted, and had three pins against Harvard and two against MIT on their way to the team title.

Swordsmen sharp

By Brian F. Wibecan

(Brian F. Wibecan '79 is a member of the varsity fencing team.)

The MIT fencing team edged a strong Army squad, 14-13, January 6 at Harvard. A half hour earlier, the West Pointers had defeated Harvard, the team responsible for MIT's loss in the season opener.

The meet was close all the way; the first round ended with the score 5-4 and the second round ended in a 9-9 tie. The Army cadets fenced an extremely aggressive game, with which the MIT sabre squad could not cope. The fencers were running vigorously up and down, and even off the strip into the wall. The directors had to position people at the walls to try to prevent the fencers from being injured. Tom Stefanick '78, who won the first of only two MIT sabre victories, commented, "It was a completely different game."

The foil and épée squads, however, posted 6-3 wins to drive MIT to a one point victory. Captain Mark Smith '78 was in fine

form, defeating three Army foilists convincingly. Geoff Pingree '80 contributed two foil wins to the cause. Top épéeist John Rodrigues '80 remained undefeated for the season, while Brian Wibecan '79 picked up two épée wins.

Coach Eric Sollee commented that the foil squad was "our strongest weapon, and was starting to fence up to par. He also reiterated hopes of an Eastern foil championship. Sollee said that the sabre squad was "shaky," while Rodrigues felt that épée was developing some depth.

The next varsity meet will be against Dartmouth on Saturday, January 21, at 2pm in duPont.

on deck

Thursday
Women's Varsity Basketball vs. Eastern Nazarene at MIT 7pm

Friday
Varsity Track vs. Lowell at MIT 5:30pm
Varsity Swimming vs. Boston College at MIT 6pm

Saturday
Varsity Wrestling vs. Amherst and Albany State at MIT 11am
Women's Varsity Fencing vs. Dartmouth at MIT 1pm
Varsity Fencing vs. Dartmouth at MIT 2pm
Varsity Gymnastics vs. Dartmouth at MIT 2pm
Women's Varsity Gymnastics vs. Dartmouth at MIT 2pm
Varsity Squash vs. Stonybrook at MIT 2pm
Varsity Hockey vs. Maine (Portland-Gorham) at MIT 7pm
Varsity Basketball vs. Bowdoin at MIT 8:15pm

Sunday
Varsity Pistol Free Pistol and Standard at MIT 9am

Monday
Varsity Basketball vs. Tufts at MIT 8:15pm

Tuesday
Varsity Hockey vs. Fitchburg State at MIT 7pm

LOOKING FOR A Θ CHANGE?

The brothers and sisters of Epsilon Theta would like to announce a mid-year rush. All undergraduates—men and women—are welcome to visit us during IAP. We are looking for a few new members to live with us beginning spring term.

Interested? Call us at 734-0648.

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Class times will be 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 & 22. Class size is limited to 15 persons. If you are headed for an MBA this is too important to miss. Decide now. We may not be able to guarantee reservations after January 18. Call or write:

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